

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 25, 2003. Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Claims 12-33 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Applicants note that Claims 12-22 and 23-33 are system and storage-medium claims, respectively, that correspond to Claims 1-11. Claims 1, 11, 12, 21, 22, and 33 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as to matters related to form. Applicants enclose herein corrected formal drawings and respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/00699900 (Hind et al.), and rejected Claim 7 as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hind et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,344 (Kothuri).

Applicants submit herewith the Declaration of co-inventor Natan E. Tiefenbrun under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to establish an invention date prior to October 10, 2001, the effective filing date of Hind et al., thus removing Hind et al. as prior art. Specifically, the inventors conceived and actually reduced to practice their invention prior to October 10, 2001. Accordingly, the rejections in view of Hind et al. are now moot.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the same. However, if the Examiner believes that any issues remain outstanding, or has any questions regarding Mr. Tiefenbrun's Declaration, we respectfully request that he contact the undersigned attorney so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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